

Walking In The Midst Of Trouble

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me: Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and Thy right hand shall save me” (Psa. 138:7).

When our youngest daughter, Akaisha, was fourteen months of age, an extremely large mass was removed from her body. When the doctors explained the precarious nature of her condition, I literally felt like a thousand pounds was pressing down upon me. I couldn't eat, sleep or carry on a conversation without crying. It was a heaviness I had never known, and even though she has never had any more problems, I can feel that same heaviness while I write this paragraph.

This is not to indicate in the least that I am the only one who has gone through troublesome times. We know, as the patriarch Job testified, that “Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). There's not a person or family on planet Earth that does not have trouble. There are times, however, when the trouble seems so intense that what you are facing feels heavier than your previous burdens.

The word that is translated “trouble” in this text is also translated “distress” in some texts (see Gen. 35:3; Psa. 120:1), and “affliction” in others (2 Chron. 20:9; Jonah 2:2). It was the unbridled enmity that might be exemplified by a female adversary or rival (see 1 Sam. 1:6). While David often alluded to his conflicts, this emphasis unquestionably revealed the extremely bitter situation in which he walked. Several lessons are set forth from this experience.

The Lord often sparks revival as we walk in the midst of trouble! The Psalmist spoke confidently in this scene. He confessed, “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me.” “Thou wilt.” The word rendered “revive” indicates that God will “quicken, or make alive.” Although the circumstances can sap the spiritual life from us, the God over the circumstances can revive and restore.

The Lord often shows revenge as we walk in the midst of trouble! Because the writer speaks of the “gods” (138:1) of the heathen world, it appears that the worshipers of false gods had mocked his faith in the true God. He reminds us that while we cannot judge unregenerate scorners, we can trust God to show His vengeance. “Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies.”

The Lord often sends release as we walk in the midst of trouble! The final words of the text, “And Thy right hand shall save me,” more than suggest that the Psalmist believed that divine power would be exerted and manifested in his situation. It is often set forth in the Scriptures that while God promises to destroy the unbelieving sinner, He also pledges to deliver His trusting child. May our hearts trust Him afresh as we walk in the midst of trouble.